

Fredericksburg Arts Commission Meeting

Thursday, December 3rd, 2009

City Hall Conference Room

Attendees: Rochelle Grey, Julie Perry, Florence Ridderhof, George Solley, Debby Klein, Pat Thalman, Peter Scelfo, and Kathleen Walsh.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the November 5th meeting were presented. Julie Perry moved to replace the listing of the Department of Economic Development with the Economic Development Authority. Peter Scelfo made the motion to approve the minutes as amended and Debby Klein seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

During this time Peter Scelfo led a discussion on the roll of the treasurer in the City's Arts Commission. He read the section of the Commission's bylaws that refer to the responsibility of the treasurer and much discussion followed. Julie Perry explained some of the procedures she is required to go through for financial allocations as well as her understanding of the current financial state of the organization – including the Government Challenge Grant and how it fits into the annual allocations. Debby Klein also shared some wisdom from her years on the previous Fine Arts Commission. Many commission members expressed frustration with the lack of official notification and city protocol's surrounding spending. Julie Perry said she would come to the next meeting with a printout of current expenditures for all to review.

Public Comment

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Reports

Arts Festival Committee – Kevin Bartram & Sue Henderson

Neither Kevin Bartram or Sue Henderson were available to attend the December meeting. Julie Perry presented to the group the idea of the Via Colori team visiting Fredericksburg on January 11th – 13th, 2010. She also passed out a PR statement created by Sue Henderson for members of the Arts Commission to use when discussing this festival with friends in the Arts Community. The statement met much resistance. There was universal concern over the beneficiary section of the festival and the short turn around time for the visit of the Via Colori team. Peter Scelfo said he didn't feel the Commission should engage in a project that would earn money for another organization. Pat Thalman and Kathleen Walsh expressed concern over the quality of the Via Colori presentation and told the Commission that without a 'hard-hitting' presentation we would not get much participation from local artists. Rochelle Grey and Debby Klein responded that the committee had many decisions ahead

of them including additional beneficiary discussions, budget and the appointment of event committee chairs. Julie Perry collected the statements that were originally handed out and told the full commission that the committee would re-evaluate and re-present at the next meeting. They have a meeting scheduled for December 8th.

Long Term Planning Committee – Peter Scelfo

Peter Scelfo informed the Commission that the Long Term Planning Committee had met and was fine tuning the document based on the new structure from the September planning retreat. He again asked commission members to submit ideas for Key Issues or comments on the document as presented thus far. Debby Klein apologized to the group for not submitting a section of information that was requested of her earlier in the process.

Public Arts – Pat Thalman

Pat Thalman reported that Bonnie De Lelys with the DRMI organization is excited about partnering with the EDA and the Arts Commission on several beautification projects for the downtown. The first one involves a fence-covering for a vacant lot on Caroline Street. She asked for additional comments on the Public Art form that was previously presented and she received none. The Commission agreed that edits could be made as things evolved and asked her committee to continue to move forward in this process to work with EDA and DRMI on the above mentioned fence panels. It was also decided that a previously suggested project of painting trash barrels in the downtown not be pursued at this time.

Old Business

Arts and Culture District – George Solley

There is no new information on the Arts and Cultural district.

New Opera House Proposal Meeting – George Solley and Kerry Devine

George Solley reported on a meeting he attended with Kerry Devine, Paul Lewis and representatives from the Silver Companies, Rappahannock Pops, and others about the old Fredericksburg Hardware site proposal to create a downtown performing arts space. He said a letter was presented by Paul Lewis that had been signed by various local arts organizations saying they were in favor of this concept and asking the City of Fredericksburg for support. Much discussion followed about this letter and Florence Ridderhof reminded the group that the letter or its contents had already been published in our minutes in a previous discussion of this topic. George Solley then reported that he and Kerry Devine again asked for more information and details about the fundraising for the project, the interior requirements for the theater space and the proposed management structure for the new center. They received no information to address their request. Peter Scelfo said that the FAC really can't discuss this without an official presentation. George Solley said he agreed, but he felt that sooner or later the Fredericksburg Arts Commission was going to have to pick a

direction on the performing arts center issue. Julie Perry then asked George Solley if he thought there was anything else to discuss at this time and he said no.

Arts Council of the Rappahannock – Rochelle Grey & Peter Scelfo

Peter Scelfo and Rochelle Grey reported that they plan to get with Kathryn Willis to discuss joint ventures and interests in the New Year. They did inform the Commission that the Arts Council of the Rappahannock has launched a calendar and a website. Pat Thalman asked if this launch had been widely publicized and Debby Klein responded that it was officially unveiled at the PNC Bank meeting that was held recently for the grant recipients supported by PNC Bank. Discussion followed about the size, style and scope of the Arts Council of the Rappahannock's new electronic media and it led to a conversation about the status of our website committee. It was decided that Pat Thalman should reinstate the Arts Commission website committee and report back at the next meeting.

New Business

Kathleen Walsh brought up the idea of a holiday gathering for commission members. It was decided that everyone's schedules were too demanding to meet in December, but that maybe we could discuss a party at the next meeting in the beginning of January.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 7th, 2010 at 7pm in the City Hall Conference Room.

Adjournment

Peter Scelfo moved to adjourn, Kathleen Walsh seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.